

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 are active in this application, Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 12 having been amended and new Claims 16 added by the present Amendment.

In the outstanding Official Action Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dusse et al in view of Coppinger et al, Claims 5-7 and 9-14 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dusse et al, Claim 8 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dussee et al as applied to Claim 5, further in view of Wang, Claim 15 was rejected under 35 USC §35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dusse et al as applied to Claim 12 above, further in view of Coppinger et al.

In light of the outstanding grounds for rejection, the claims have been amended to clarify a distinction between the present invention and the cited references, and to that end, Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 12 have been amended to clarify that originally recited "local information" is --original local information--. Also, new Claim 16 is submitted for examination. It is respectfully submitted that the originally-filed specification, claims, abstract and drawings fully support the subject matter of Claims 1-16. No new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding grounds for rejection because in Applicants' view the amended claims patentably define over the applied references insofar as Dusse et al, Coppinger et al and Wang do not disclose or suggest a local server for providing original local information.

Briefly recapitulating, as described in "DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART" section of Applicant's originally-filed specification, there are demands from a local information providing side for realizing more convenient systems in which original local

information provided through a local radio network can be provided only with respect to registered members.¹

In view of the above actual condition, it is an object of the Applicant's invention to provide a portable terminal; a local radio server and a subscription server for realizing an information distribution system using a local radio network.²

In order to achieve the above object, an information distribution system comprising a portable terminal 1, a Bluetooth base station 2 and a subscription server 3. The portable terminal 1 is equipped with a Bluetooth interface 17 and a public network interface 19. The portable terminal 1 can receive a communication service by selectively utilizing Bluetooth communications and public network communications according to time, place and occasion. The Bluetooth base station 2 is provided at a location where general public gathers, for providing information (especially original local information, such as transfer information or time table information in the case of a train or a bus goods information or discount information in the case of a shop, or more general information such as news, weather forecast, traffic or accident information, etc.) with respect to the portable terminal 1 through the Bluetooth communications. The subscription server 3 is connected to the portable terminal 1 and the Bluetooth base station 2 through the public network communications.³

The portable terminal 1 sends an access request for original local information provided by the Bluetooth base station 2, to the Bluetooth base station 2 through the Bluetooth communications along with a terminal ID for identifying the portable terminal 1, when accessing the Bluetooth base station 2 (S1). If the terminal ID is not registered in the Bluetooth base station 2, the Bluetooth base station 2 sends a membership subscription guidance to the portable terminal 1 (S2-4). Upon receiving the membership subscription

¹ Id., page 2, lines 13-19.

² Id., page 2 lines 23-26.

³ Id., page 5, line 31 through page 7, line 28 and FIGS. 1 and 2.

guidance, the portable terminal 1 sends a membership subscription request to the subscription server 3 through the public network communications along with the terminal ID (S5).

Subsequently, a necessary subscription procedure is carried out between the portable terminal 1 and the subscription server 3 through the public network communications (S6). When the subscription procedure is completed, the subscription server 3 notified the fact that the portable terminal 1 with this terminal ID had newly become a member, to the Bluetooth base station 2 through the public network communications (S7). Upon receiving this notification, the Bluetooth base station 2 registers the notified terminal ID therein (S8) (see page 8, line 17 through page 10, line 24 and FIG. 5).

Accordingly, the present invention focuses on a local server (such as Bluetooth base station 2, Figure 1) for providing original local information with respect to a portable terminal 1 of a user through Bluetooth communications.⁴

On the other hand, Dusse et al focuses on a Proxy Server device (a local server) 108 for generally providing cached local information with respect to a mobile device 100 of a user through an Airnet 104. However, the cached local information is not an original content provided by the Proxy Server device 108, but a copy of an original content provided by a Provisioning Server 120 or a Service Server 122 (see FIG. 1). Furthermore, neither Coppinger et al nor Wang focus on a local server for providing original local information, and thus neither of these references cures this deficiency in Dusse et al.

Further, although the outstanding Official Action finds that Dusse et al disclose a portable terminal (mobile device) comprising a local server access request unit (processor) configured to send an access request for a local information provided by a local server (Proxy Server) to the local server through a local radio network (airnet), Applicant however respectfully submits that Dusse et al fails to disclose original local information provided by

⁴ Specification, page 6, line 28 through page 7, line 4.

the local server, as cited in amended independent Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully traverses the outstanding rejection of Claims 1-4 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dusse et al in view of Coppinger et al.

Applicant similarly respectfully traverses the rejection the rejection of Claims 5-7 and 9-14 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dusse et al. Regarding Claim 5, the outstanding Official Action finds that Dusse et al disclose a local server (Proxy Server) comprising a local information storage (storage database) configured to store local information (information relating to a mobile device to be verified prior to processing a service request). However, Applicant respectfully submits that Dusse et al fail to disclose a local server comprising a local information storage configured to store original local information, as cited in amended independent Claim 5.

Regarding Claim 12, the outstanding Official Action finds that Dusse et al disclose a subscription server (service server) using a portable terminal (mobile device) and a local server (Proxy Server device) providing local information. However, Applicant respectfully submits that Dusse et al fail to disclose a local server providing original local information, as cited in amended independent Claim 12.

On the other hand, as above noted, Dusse et al focuses on a Proxy server device 108 for generally providing cached local information with respect to a mobile device 100 through an airnet 104. It is noted that the cached local information is not an original content provided by the Proxy Server device 108, but a copy of an original content provided by a Provisioning Server 120 or a Service Server 122 (see FIG. 1). Coppinger et al and Wang likewise do not focus on a local server for providing original local information. Therefore, Dusse et al, Coppinger et al and Wang fail to disclose or suggest the local server for providing the original local information.

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In view of the foregoing remarks, the amended claims are believed to be patentably distinguishing over the cited references.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above comments, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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